

## DELEGATED DECISION REPORT

<b>Application Reference Number</b>	14NP0061
<b>Description / Site Address</b>	Forestry Determination in respect of proposed road at Sidwood, Kielder Forest, Northumberland.
<b>Applicant</b>	Forestry Commission
<b>Agent</b>	Mr James Simpson
<b>Expiry date of publicity / consultations</b>	N/A
<b>Last date for decision</b>	11/08/2014

### Planning Policy

N/A

### Relevant Planning History:

Nil

### Summary of Consultations/Representations

**NNPA Landscape Officer:** No objection

### Assessment

#### Introduction

This application comprises of a request to the local planning authority for whether prior approval is required for additions to a forestry track under Part 7 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995.

The proposal will involve providing a new track spur adjacent to an existing forestry track which, post-extraction of timber crop will be allowed to naturalise following cessation of the programme.

The relevant issues for consideration are;

- *Whether the proposal is reasonably necessary for forestry purposes;*
- *Impact on Landscape and Tranquility;*

#### *Necessity for Forestry Development*

To benefit from permitted development the proposal must be reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture. In this instance, it is clear that the proposed additions to the access track are reasonably required to allow for timber extraction. There are no apparent

alternative solutions that would have any lesser impact upon the National Park's special qualities.

*Impact on Landscape*

The proposed new track runs along a contour of the landscape and seeks to minimise the impact on the wider and immediate context. This area of the National Park is characterised as being part of cultivated timber crop, which is felled and re-seeded on a cyclical basis and therefore the layout of the landscape is typified by infrastructure to facilitates this. Whilst forest tracks exist close to the site, they have a low –level / and/or no impact on the landscape. The proposed track would not change this situation and consequently no significant impacts on the landscape are presented with this proposal.

Conclusion

The proposed additions to the existing forestry track would constitute permitted development under Part 7 of the GPDO. The track additions due to their scale and location would not have a significant impact upon the landscape, tranquility, on sites of nature conservation importance, or heritage assets. For these reasons it would not be appropriate for the National Park Authority, as local planning authority, to request further details of the siting and means of construction for further assessment of the proposed works.

**RECOMMENDATION & CONDITIONS**

That prior approval is not required.

	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Planning Officer</b>		

Ref **14NP0061**

I hereby certify that the proposal may be determined by the Chief Executive or the Head of Policy and Planning under the current Delegation Scheme, and is hereby **approved**.

	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Interim Development Manager</b>		
<b>and</b>		
<b>Chief Executive</b>		